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Letter dated 26 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Guinea is following, with particular interest, the development of the draft resolution on sanctions currently being discussed by the Security Council.

The Government of the Republic of Guinea would like to recall that this draft resolution was introduced following the issuance of the report of the Panel of Experts on the links between conflict diamonds and arms trafficking in Sierra Leone (S/2000/1195).

During the debate on this report, the Government of Guinea had the honour to express its views on this excellent report, which rightly implicates the Liberian authorities in arms trafficking in Sierra Leone and in the subregion. This trafficking is fuelled by the diamonds being fraudulently exploited by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

As in Angola, the illicit exploitation of mineral resources is today an important means by which rebel movements supply themselves with arms.

According to the Panel of Experts, it is this link which must be broken in Sierra Leone, a martyred country which continues to suffer the myriad consequences of a war supported by Liberia.

The recent rebel attacks on Guinea's borders by rebel groups from Liberia and Sierra Leone are part of this logic of destabilization of the countries of the subregion, which has been organized by the Government of Liberia and the RUF rebels.

In the view of the Guinean Government, the imposition of sanctions against Liberia is justified much more by the recommendations of the Panel of Experts than by the rebel attacks against the Republic of Guinea, as a means of ending the suffering of the people of Sierra Leone.

This position of the Guinean Government was reaffirmed at the recent meeting in Conakry, on 16 February 2001, between the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, and President Lansana Conté.

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The Guinean Government considers that any attempt by ECOWAS to delay or prevent the adoption of sanctions against Liberia will perpetuate the Sierra Leone conflict and encourage the rebel groups operating in the subregion.

Conversely, it believes that the draft resolution, in its current form (Rev.6), will be a means of determining whether or not the authorities of Monrovia are willing to end their support for the RUF rebels.

The adoption of the draft resolution will also help reinforce the efforts of ECOWAS to restore a definitive and lasting peace in West Africa.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) François L. **Fall**
Ambassador